

**TYPE OF LOVE BETWEEN THE MAJOR CHARACTERS
REFLECTED IN ARTHUR GOLDEN'S *MEMOIR OF A GEISHA*
(1997) PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor
Degree in Department of English Education**

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APPROVAL

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Abstract

Love is one of the major emotions in a human's life. Love can happen anytime, anywhere, and to anyone. One of the novels that using love as a theme is Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha*. This research aimed to analyze the indicators of love, and the type of love in the novel. This research using Sternberg's (1986) triangular of love theory to know the type of love. The result of the research is divided into two. First, there are five indicators found in the novel namely being happy when together with their beloved, supporting their beloved, having sexual attraction, sacrificing in the name of love, and wanting to be together until the end. Second, based on the indicators, it can be concluded the type of love in the novel is consummate love.

Keywords: *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Love, Arthur Golden

Abstract

Cinta adalah salah satu emosi utama dalam sebuah kehidupan manusia. Cinta dapat terjadi dimanapun, kapanpun, dan kepada siapapun. Salah satu novel yang menggunakan sebagai tema adalah *Memoirs of a Geisha* karangan Arthur Golden. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis indikator cinta, dan tipe cinta di dalam novel. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori segitiga cinta Sternberg's (1986) untuk mengetahui jenis cinta. Hasil dari penelitian dibagi menjadi dua bagian. Yang pertama, ada lima indikator cinta yang ditemukan di novel yaitu bahagia saat bersama kekasih, mensupport kekasih, memiliki ketertarikan seksual, berkorban atas nama cinta, dan ingin bersama sampai akhir. Kedua, berdasarkan dari indikator, dapat disimpulkan tipe cinta di dalam novel adalah cinta sempurna.

Kata Kunci: *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Cinta, Arthur Golden

1. INTRODUCTION

Love is one of the major emotions in a human's life. Love can happen anytime, anywhere, and to anyone. Love can make many miracles around the world. Love can cure illness. Love also can change

someone's character; it can be from a good person to become a bad person, or even from a bad person to become a good person.

Based on Erich Fromm, not only affection love is also behavior, and as a matter of fact, the "affection" of love is shallow compared to one's commitment to love using some kind of loving actions for a long time (Fromm, 2006). In other words, he confines that love is not affection, but a commitment to, and adherence to, loving actions towards another, oneself, or many others, over a sustained duration (Fromm, 2006).

Love also becomes the most favorite theme for a writer to write their book. One of those writers is Arthur Golden. Arthur Golden born in 1956 and a writer from America. He writes some of the books in his career. One of his books is *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

This research contains indicators and depicted of love and the reason major characters falling in love in the *Memoirs of a Geisha* Novel. The research using a psychological perspective. The problem of this study consist of what are the indicators of love between the major characters in the novel? How is love depicted in the novel? Why did the major characters fall in love with each other?

Memoirs of a Geisha itself have become an object of several kinds of research. Many different themes become the focus of the previous studies. There are comprised of Kurniasari's (2007), Wulandari's (2003), Putri's (2012), Rosari's (2004), Dewi's (2005), Handayani's (2004), Hastika's (2007), Novita's (2004), Wati's (2005), Warasthi's (2006), Ratnasari's (2014), and Hariyani's (2007).

The previous studies can be divided into three focus. Kurniasari's (2007), Wulandari's (2003), Putri's (2012), Rosari's (2004), and Dewi's (2005) research focused on what happened to Sayuri becoming a geisha. It about Sayuri's struggles and her change in becoming a geisha.

Handayani's (2004), Hastika's (2007), Novita's (2004), Wati's (2005), Warasthi's (2006), and Ratnasari's (2014) research focused on the social standing of geisha in the public. It about how the image of geisha from the eyes of mass and the issue that accompanies it.

Hariyani's (2007) research focused on the personal relationships of Sayuri. It about the relationship of Sayuri with another character.

This research is literature research. Wellek and Warren (1949) said that literature is reflected and conveyed life as an even more indefinite. That means the literature is some collection of events that occur in the community. In the literature, the author has to provide a print to convey his/her thoughts to the reader.

This research using Sternberg's (1986) triangular theory of love to know what kind of love occurred to the major characters. Sternberg (1986) said that love can be viewed as three components that forming a triangle. Those components are passion, intimacy, and commitment.

2. METHOD

The type of data in this research will be using texts and sentences which can be found in the novel written by Arthur Golden which the title is *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

The Source of data in this research will solely use the novel written by Arthur Golden which title is *Memoirs of a Geisha* which was published in 1997.

To obtain suitable information, the researcher repeatedly reading Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha* novel, taking note of any sentences that related to the chairman and Sayuri's feelings, recognizing and choosing the data that are connected to the research questions, Categorizing the data in the forms of sentences and discourses based on

the triangular theory of love, providing the answers to the research questions, and lastly making a conclusion.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1.Finding

3.1.1. Indicator of Love Between Major Characters

The indicators of love between major characters are found in the novel.

a. Being happy when together with their beloved

Happiness is one of many emotions of human beings. Happiness occurred anytime in life. One of them, happiness occurred when they meet or together with their beloved one.

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This kind of happiness was also found after The Chairman decided to become Sayuri's Danna. She felt so happy and relieved until tears spilled from both of her eyes thinking about her relationship with the Chairman after this

b. Supporting their beloved

As human beings, everyone will support each other. Not an exception to a couple. If for their beloved one, anyone can do anything to support them.

Supporting acts can be found in this novel. To make Nishioka Minoru become the heir of The Chairman's company, Sayuri decided to bring her son to the United States with her.

Supporting acts also can be found on the Chairman's side. After meeting Sayuri in her childhood, he immediately likes her and asking Mameha to help her to be a geisha

c. Having Sexual attraction

Human has a sexual attraction toward the opposite sex. This kind of attraction sometimes not only about wanting to have offspring, but it can also just desiring the opposite sex. This kind of sexual attraction also can be fulfilled by light skinship.

Sexual attraction can be found in this novel. It occurred in the Ichiriki after Sayuri confess her feeling toward the Chairman. With the flow of the event and the right atmosphere, the Chairman suddenly kissed her.

d. Sacrificing in the name of love

Sacrifice is a feat to offer something to gain something. Many kinds of things in this world sometimes need something to sacrifice. Even loving someone needs to sacrifice something. It can be time, feeling, space, etc.

Sayuri's sacrifice can be seen after she met the Chairman in her childhood. After she was helped by the Chairman, she sacrificed her idea to escape from Gion and decided to become a geisha so she can meet the Chairman again.

The Chairman's sacrifice can be seen when he told Sayuri what he did after the event at Shirakawa Stream. He felt want to help Sayuri after seen her expression. He even sacrificed his devotion toward Nobu.

e. Wanting to be together until the end

In life, wanting to be together with a beloved one until the end of life is one of the purposes of life. It's one of the ultimate goals which human beings want to seek. It isn't that different in the story with the main theme or sub-theme is romance. The ending usually about the characters living together until the end of their life.

In this novel, this way of living can be seen at the end of the chapter. It can be seen after the event

at Ichiriki, in the spring of the same year the Chairman making Sayuri be his mistress. He then decided to buy a house for Sayuri living and the Chairman's resting place.

3.1.2. Depicted Love in The Novel

Some depicted loves that are found in the novel form into some different kind of shape.

a. Character

Characters are the person who has a part of the action in the story. A character can depict any kind of situation. In this research, the writer is using the character to depict love in the novel.

Sayuri's love is depicted when she confessed to the Chairman why she did that act on Amami back then. She just wants to get affection from the Chairman, not from Nobu

The Chairman's love is depicted when the Chairman told the reason Mameha was helping Sayuri to be a geisha. He told Mameha about a girl who has attracted him.

b. Setting

The setting is where the event of a story can occur. Setting can be a place, time, or even situation which occurred in the story. In this section, the writer using the setting to depicted love in the novel.

Depicted love based on setting can be found after Sayuri becomes the Chairman's mistress. It told the daily situation of their lives in her house. It also depicted the atmosphere when they together in the house.

c. Event

Event is something that occurred to make the story can proceed. The event tells what happens in the past, present, or future of the story. In this section, the event used to depicted love in the novel.

The event which depicted love is in Sayuri's childhood. It happened when Sayuri reflects on her miserable life in her childhood. She then had a destiny like encountering the Chairman.

d. Symbol

A symbol is something that has a deeper meaning than what can be seen. It can be represented by material or sign which written. Love sometimes also can be symbolized by many things. In this section, the symbol used to depicted love in the novel.

The symbol which depicted love is in Sayuri's childhood. It happened after she was helped by the Chairman. He then gave her some coins and a handkerchief. Those

things become her affection and determination toward the Chairman.

3.1.3. Reason Falling in Love

The reason Sayuri fell in love with the Chairman vice versa found in the novel. And also the reason Pumpkin felt jealousy toward Sayuri and want to ruin Sayuri's plan.

a. Sayuri

Sayuri's love for the Chairman can be seen in some chapters and events in the novel. For the reason of her love, it was found in her childhood. Her reason is that when she felt depressed and miserable in her life, the Chairman's kindness help and encourage her which made her stand still and found another reason for her life.

b. Chairman

The Chairman's love toward Sayuri was hardly shown in the entire novel. In the story, his relation with Sayuri was like any normal customer and geisha. But at the near end of the story, he revealed that he has a feeling toward Sayuri. He also said the reason why he loves her. He simply has an interest in her beauty and wants to see her shinier. To do that, he asked Mameha to help her become a geisha.

c. Pumpkin

At first, Pumpkin and Sayuri's relation was a best friend. But it revealed at the climax of the novel that changed. Pumpkin becomes very jealousy of

Sayuri. She felt fooled by Sayuri and stole everything that was her.

3.2.Discussion

After analyzing the novel, some of the indicators found which considered as a component of love. Those are being happy when together with their beloved, supporting their beloved, having sexual attraction, sacrificing in the name of love, and wanting to be together until the end. Being happy when together with their beloved is about the feeling of happiness when the person meets or together with their beloved. Supporting their beloved is about the person who wants to support their beloved. Having sexual attraction is about the person who wants to have a sexual act with their beloved. Sacrificing in the name of love is about the person doing sacrifices to help their beloved. Wanting to be together until the end is about people want to be together with their beloved until death apart them.

From those indicators, the writer can categorize the indicator using the Stenberg Triangular theory of love. Based on the theory, there are three components of love. Those are intimacy, passion, and decision/commitment. From those components, the writer categorizing the indicator using the components of love. Being happy when together with their beloved and supporting their beloved indicators are categorized into intimacy. Having sexual attraction and sacrificing in the name of love are categorized into passion. Wanting to be together until the is categorized into decision/commitment. From the categorization, it can be concluded the type of love between Sayuri and the Chairman is consummate love since they have all three components of love.

From the research above, the previous study which adopts this novel can be categorized into three types of focus. The first type

is what happened to Sayuri becoming a Geisha. It consists of Sayuri's struggle and her change in becoming a geisha. The second type is about the social standing of geisha in the public. It consists of how geisha are seen in public and the issue which accompany it. The third type is about the personal relationships of Sayuri. It contains Sayuri's relationship with other characters. This research is categorized as the third type. This research is about her love for another major character.

This research has a relation with the research from (Hariyani, 2007). Her research is about why Mameha is having a relationship with Sayuri. It has a relation with this research about the main character's relationship with another character. The difference between her research with this is about the focus of the research. Her research focuses on the motivation of Mameha to build a relationship with Sayuri. This research focuses on the type of love that occurred between Sayuri and the Chairman. Based on this comparison, it can be concluded that this research adding the research of (Hariyani, 2007).

4. CLOSING

There are three conclusions as to the result of this research, based on the analysis.

First, there are five indicators of love found in the novel. Those are being happy when together with their beloved, supporting their beloved, having sexual attraction, sacrificing in the name of love, and wanting to be together until the end. Being happy when together with their beloved is about the feeling of happiness when the person meets or together with their beloved. Supporting their beloved is about the person who wants to support their beloved. Having sexual attraction is about the person who wants to have a sexual act with their beloved. Sacrificing in

the name of love is about the person doing sacrifices to help their beloved. Wanting to be together until the end is about people want to be together with their beloved until death apart them.

Second, in the novel, love can be depicted using four items. Character, setting, event, and symbol. From character, Sayuri's love is depicted when she confessed to the Chairman the reason she did the act back then at Amami. The Chairman's love is depicted by confessing the reason for Mameha wants to help Sayuri. Depicted of love in setting found after Sayuri become the Chairman mistress and lived together in their house. The event depicted love shown from the first time of encountered Sayuri with the Chairman. The symbol depicted love with a handkerchief and some money Sayuri got from the Chairman in her childhood.

The last is the reason fell in love is split into Sayuri's and the Chairman's reason of love and Pumpkin's jealousy. Sayuri's reason is that the Chairman helped her when she felling down from her life. The Chairman's reason is that he is interested in Sayuri's beauty. Pumpkin's jealousy is that she felt fooled and stole everything that was her by Sayuri.

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